(c) whether it is a fact that Government agreed to release ten jailed militants, including Babar Badr, former Chief of Muslim Janbaz Force, now AL-Jehad, for securing the release of two IB officials abducted in June, 1993;

(d) if so, what are the details of the 'deal' and particulars of the militants/terrorists released; and

(e) whether any 'deal' on the same lines is being considered for the kidnapped Bihar Legislator, Shri P. K. Sinha?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As per information readily available with the Central Government, 359 persons were kidnapped/ abducted during the period of which 171 are reported to have been released.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*136. *[Transferred to 6th August, 1993.]*

Amendment to the Law relating to Rape

*137. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will

the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Women has suggested major changes in various penal laws to increase the punishment for rape and to widen the scope of legal definition of sexual assault which at present is very limited;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the suggestions of the Commission and propose to amend the law relating to rape in near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Proposal to Set up Southern Gas Grid

138. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI
SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will

the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Southern Gas Grid for supply of gas to Southern States from Bombay High;

(b) whether any proposal to this effect has been received from the Chief Ministers of Southern States;

(c) if so, what action has been initiated by Government to implement the above project;

(d) what is the likely cost of this project; and

(e) what are the States likely to be covered by the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (e) Requests received from the Southren States for a Gas Grid have been examined by Government. The concept of laying a gas pipeline from the Western Offshore to the Southern region has been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western Offshore. This is also proposed to be supplemented by imported LNG and possibly pipeline imports of natural gas from the Middle East. The proposed grid will benefit the Southren States.

PAKISTAN'S ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA

*139. SHRI SURESH KALMADI
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will

the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been attempting to involve other Islamic countries in the internal affairs of India by raking up the Kashmir issue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the communique issued after the special Ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Islamabad of June 12 and 13th, 1993 had made references to Kashmir; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue at various international for including the Organisation of Islamic Conference, in recent months.

(b) The communique issued at the conclusion of the OIC Special Ministerial Meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina held in Islamabad on July 12-13, 1993 made certain references to Kashmir.

(c) Government believe that such attempts by Pakistan to internationalise the Kashmir issue and to give it a religious bias, is propagandist and a distortion of facts. It is in contravention of the spirit of the Simla Agreement under which India and Pakistan are committed to reslove their differences peacefully through bilateral negotiations. There is no scope for any third party involvement. Foreign Governments including those which are members of the OIC have been fully briefed about Government's views in the matter.

Pending Applications for allotment of Petrol Pumps

*140. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI'
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending for allotment of petrol pumps throughout the country, State-wise;

(b) what is the number of applications filed with Government from Gujarat and Bihar state; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far on this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Applications are presently being invited by the Oil Marketing Companies for selection of RO dealers through the Oil Selection Boards against the vecancies pending from previous marketing plans and 997 proposals from the current marketing plan for 1988-93.

(b) 53 and 186 RO dealerships are planned for Gujarat and Bihar respectively in the current marketing plan.

(c) In order to expedite the selection of dealers, Government have consistuted State/Region-wise Oil Selection Boards including those for Gujarat and Bihar.

Yamuna Action Plan

@1045. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMNET & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yamuna Action Plan has been inaugurated and work taken in hand; if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) what are the details of the resource-generation aspect of the Action Plan such as reclamation of land from river bed, and development of tourism infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A scheme of pollution abatement of river Yamuna, called the Yamuna Action Plan, has been launched by the Government. Under this plan, pollution abatement works are to be taken up in six towns of Haryana and eight towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. The works would include (i) interception and diversion of municipal waste water from these towns, (ii) treatment of such intercepted waste water, (iii) setting up of facilities like low cost sanitation, improved cermatoria, river front development, etc. and (iv) plantation along the river bank. Work on the Action Plan has begun.

(b) Aspects such as reclamation of land from river bed and development of tourism infrastructure are not covered under the Yamuna Action Plan.

Meeting of the Global Environment Facilities at Beijing

1046. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main objectives of the Global Environment Facilities Meeting held recently at Beijing;

(b) whether the meeting has failed to attain any of its objectives; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND

@ Previously Unstarred Question 810.